

BUT GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE FOR US IN THAT
WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS,
CHRIST DIED FOR US.

ROMANS 5:8



ROMANS: The Theology of the Gospel

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM



Christ Lutheran Church
3509 SW Burlingame Rd.
Topeka, KS 66611
785-266-6263
www.christlcms.org
Rev. Ben Micheel, Pastor
Amanda Adams, DCE



Welcome and Opening Prayer

430 My Song Is Love Unknown

LSB 430



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their



be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
Who at my need His life did spend!
And for His death They thirst and cry.
Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

(continued on next page)

5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suffering goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683

Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962

Text: Public domain

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Divine Service Setting One, page 151

✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

Confession, to confess to God our sins and sinful nature. Absolution, “To absolve of sin and wrongdoing,” more specifically, to affirm God’s forgiveness to all who sincerely confess their sins to Him.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Stand

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

A In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9 151

A If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination. Consider: Have you loved God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength? Have you loved your neighbor as yourself?

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

- A** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Declaration of Grace

John 1:12; Philippians 1:6 LSB 151

- A** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 105:2–6; antiphon: v. 1

- A** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
- C** **make known his deeds among the peoples!**
- A** Sing to him, sing praises to him;
- C** **tell of all his wondrous works!**
- A** Glory in his holy name;
- C** **let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**
- A** Seek the LORD and his strength;
- C** **seek his presence continually!**
- A** Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
- C** **his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**
- A** O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
- C** **children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- A** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
- C** **make known his deeds among the peoples!**

Kyrie

Mark 10:47 152

A Greek phrase meaning, "Lord, have mercy!" A brief prayer not only imploring God's mercy but rejoicing in it through Jesus Christ.

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29 LSB 154

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

“Salutation” is a word from Latin meaning, “to salute” or “to greet.” “Collect” (KAH-lekt), a brief structured prayer, usually consisting of five parts: address to God, basis for the prayer, petition, desired benefit or result, and trinitarian conclusion. The Collect of the Day also “collects” the message of the day’s Gospel reading.

A The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

A Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

A The Old Testament Reading is from Deuteronomy, chapter 7.

⁶“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

A The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 5.

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68 LSB 156

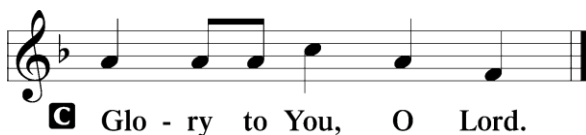


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:44–52

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.


⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Creed comes from the Latin "credo" which means "I believe." We confess our Christian faith in one of the three creeds (short statement of belief) agreed upon by the ancient church.

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

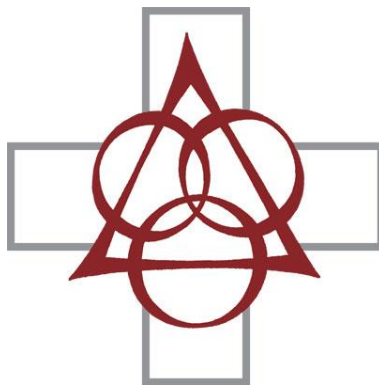
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

Children's Message

Matthew 19:14; Luke 18:16

*Children are invited to join Amanda Adams, our Director of Christian Education,
at the front of the sanctuary for the Children's Message.*



563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

LSB 563



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon



Offering

If you brought your gift, tithe, or offering with you today, you may place it in the offering plate as it passes. We also have multiple options for electronic giving. You can sign up for online giving through Vanco at bit.ly/GivingChristLCMS for a one-time or recurring gift. You may also download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app and search for Christ Lutheran Church in Topeka, KS. Direct links and additional information are available on the church website (christlcms.org/giving).




For those joining us remotely, you may use the electronic giving methods listed above, or you may mail your offering to the church office (3509 SW Burlingame Rd, Topeka, KS 66611).

Stand

Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19 LSB 159



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Prayer of the Church

1 Timothy 2:1-4

*At the end of each petition, the pastor will say, “Lord, in Your mercy,”
to which the congregation will respond, “Hear our prayer.”*

- A** ...through Jesus Christ, Your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer

- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.
Amen.



Acknowledgments

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Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26 166

From Latin, "to bless" or "blessing", the Lord sends us out, blessing us as we go.

- A** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.



Sit

543 What Wondrous Love Is This

LSB 543



- 1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be -
God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my
is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will
sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

-- Week at a Glance --

Sunday July 30	8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Worship Service Sunday School (children & adults)
Monday July 31		
Tuesday August 1		
Wednesday August 2	10:00 am 6:00 pm	Women's Morning Bible Study Pastor's Bible Study
Thursday August 3	2:00 pm	Chair Aerobics
Friday August 4		
Saturday August 5	8:00 am 9:00 am	LERT Training (at Herrington Retreat Center) TLS Work Day (at Topeka Lutheran School) Touch a Truck
Sunday August 6	8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am	Worship Service w/ Communion Sunday School (children & adults)

Celebrating

Birthdays: Don L. (31st); Haley G., Jennifer G. (2nd); Tracie C., Harper D., Leandra H., Jay W. (3rd); Satine G., Jenna H., Robert P., Henry S., Sandy S. (4th); Stephen B., Chance B., Alan H., Damien O. (5th); Shelley B., Dan F. (6th)

Baptism Birthdays: Karlee G. (30th); Heather M., Riley M., Bryan V., Patrick V. (31st); Mayah M., Joann W. (1st); Frankie J. (2nd); Andrea V. (4th)

Anniversaries: Marty & Bev C., John & Carlie G. (2nd); Chris & Vikki N., Scott & Andrea V. (4th); Thad & Marlee C. (5th)

-- Announcements --

Adult Sunday School Hour (9:15 am)

Romans (with Pastor Ben) – Schemm Family Life Center (Gym)
God's Word for Today: 1, 2, & 3 John (Small Group) – Basement Meeting Room
A Walk Through the Bible (Women's Group) – Meeting Room near Gym

Children/Youth Sunday School Hour (9:15 am)

Children (Pre-K through 6th grade) – Upstairs Education Wing
Youth (7th-12th grades) – Basement Youth Room

Women's Morning Bible Study – FINAL WEEK!

Leaning on Jesus – Wednesdays at 10 AM – Coffee Lobby (Kids can play in gym.)

Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

Luke – Wednesdays at 6 PM – Basement

Worship Service Update

Please note that today (Sunday, July 30th) we will not have communion during our worship services. Pastor Ben is out of town.

Rally Sunday

Join us on Sunday, August 13th as we celebrate the beginning of another school year! Students may bring their backpacks to church that morning for the Backpack Blessing from Pastor Ben (during both worship services). Enjoy a pancake breakfast at 9:15 AM hosted by Christ Youth – free will offering will help offset costs for upcoming district and national youth gatherings and events.

Midweek at Christ

Our new Midweek program will begin on Wednesday, August 16th – all ages are welcome and encouraged to join us! We will provide a FREE meal each week (sign up through the church website if you can help us prepare/cook the food). We'll hold a brief worship service, and then offer Bible classes for all ages – children and adults. Friends and guests are always welcome! Choir and children's choir will begin meeting in September.

Midweek Teachers & Helpers

We still need a couple more teachers and helpers for our children's Midweek classes. If you can spare an hour of your time on Wednesday evenings, please contact DCE Amanda Adams.

-- Announcements --

Confirmation

Confirmation class has been expanded to include 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students this year. Class begins as part of our Midweek program on Wednesday, August 16th (4 PM). Please contact DCE Amanda Adams if your child will be attending.

LCMS National Development Grant

We are happy to announce that we have received a \$10,000 grant from the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to assist Ukrainian refugees here in Topeka! Watch for more updates in our newsletter in the months to come to see how this opportunity unfolds.

Touch a Truck

Our third annual Touch a Truck event will be on Saturday, August 5th from 9 AM to 11 AM here in the church parking lot. Kids can sit in and take photos with all kinds of different vehicles during this free community event.

LERT Training – Registration Due 7/30

If our Touch a Truck event at Christ isn't your thing, the LCMS Kansas District is offering the opportunity to sign up for Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training on Saturday, August 5th. Individuals (ages 14+) can train as volunteers to serve in Disaster Response and/or Critical Incidents scenarios.

LERT Basic Training

Herington Retreat Center (475 Trail Rd, Herington, KS)

Registration: \$25 for 6 hours of training

Register: lcms-lert.org

TLS Work Day

Yet another option for August 5th (or maybe after you're done at Touch a Truck)...

There will be a work day at Topeka Lutheran School on Saturday, August 5th, 8 AM to 2 PM. Volunteers will begin to intentionally sort school items. Lunch will be provided.

Contact Allison Lehmann (316) 651-7795 with any questions.

Survey – Pastoral Characteristics

The Pastoral Characteristics Survey is another necessary step as we prepare to start the call process for an Associate Pastor. Please fill out this survey on our website (christlcms.org) or pick up a paper copy in the coffee lobby. Survey deadline is Aug. 7th.

-- Announcements --

Call Committee

The Call Committee is the group of members from Christ tasked with looking through potential seminary candidates and (with prayerful consideration) finding our new Associate Pastor. The Call Committee is appointed by the Head Elder and the President of the Congregation. If you are interested in being a member of this committee, please contact John Hart (Head Elder) or Charles Hartman (President of the Congregation). Not all interested parties will be able to be on the committee, but all will be considered.

Text Alerts

Sign up to receive text messages from Christ Lutheran Church! No, we won't spam you with messages every day. This will be used sparingly for important updates regarding worship services or events (such as when we had no electricity for the block party). It will be a fast way to convey time-sensitive information.

To sign up for text alerts, provide the church office with your name, e-mail address, and cell phone number with area code. Please e-mail this information directly to the church office (office@christlcms.org) or legibly write the information and bring it to the church office. (Please -- do NOT verbally tell Pastor, Amanda, or Mel -- we won't remember it!)

We will leave the initial sign up period open through Sunday, August 20th. That week, all who have provided a valid e-mail address will receive an e-mail from Church360 (a Concordia owned technology company that we use for our church records management) asking for you to verify your phone number and opt-in for text messages. (Standard message/data rates apply.)

Remembered in our Prayers

Charlie P., Luke H., Don L., Jerry M., Jean (Pauline C.'s sister), Judy (Colleen B.'s neighbor), Noel (Colleen B.'s brother), Melanie (Sharon L.'s daughter), Vikki N., Matt N., Virginia C., Evelyn (mother of Sandy S.), Ted M., Garry N., Mark (Carol J.'s friend), Wayne B., David (Sondra K.'s son), Kim (friend of the Micheels), Dick H., Betty H., Dorothy (Wayne K.'s sister-in-law), Nick (Hannah M.'s cousin), Sharon H., Lila N., Darleen C., Brandon B., Dennis L., Marsha S., James (father-in-law of Norlinda C.), Craig R., Craig R. II, Natalie O., Doris T., Donna B., Lee M., Julie J., and others named in your heart. Pray for the Topeka Rescue Mission, Chelsea Irwin and missionaries around the world. We pray especially for those around the world being persecuted for their faith in the one, true God and the suffering they endure. Please continue to pray for Pastor Ben, DCE Amanda, our staff and their families as they do our Lord's work here at Christ Lutheran. We also pray for those who serve in the armed forces, first responders, and for our country and government. Prayers of thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior and the new life we have in Him.



RALLY SUNDAY

Sunday, August 13th

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of another school year!

Backpack Blessing

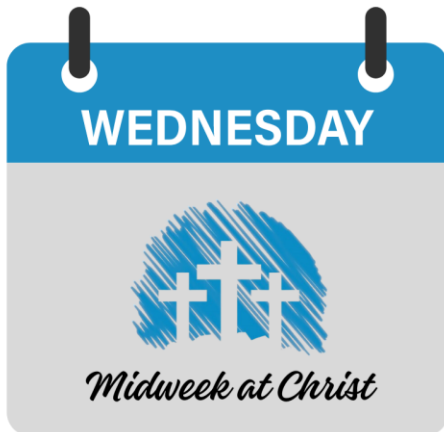
Students may bring their backpacks with them to church that morning.

Pastor will say a blessing for the coming school year!

Breakfast

Join us for breakfast at 9:15 am in the Schemm Family Life Center!

A free will offering will be taken. Funds raised will help Christ Youth offset costs for upcoming district and national youth gatherings.



-- *Every Wednesday* --

(Begins August 16th)

4:00 pm - Confirmation

5:15 pm - Meal

5:55 pm - Worship

6:05 pm - Classes/Bible Study

7:00 pm - Children's Choir

7:20 pm - Adult Choir

The Son of God Has Redeemed Us for Himself with His Holy and Precious Blood

The Lord our God has chosen us to be “*his treasured possession,*” not because of any strength in us, but solely “*because the LORD loves*” us (Deut. 7:6–8). He is faithful, and He “*keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments*” (Deut. 7:9). He has searched for us and found us in love, and He has bestowed on us “*great value*” by the great price that He has paid on the cross (Matt. 13:45–46). In His joy, He has redeemed us by His cross and gathered us into His kingdom by the Gospel. Now we are “*hidden in a field,*” covered by the cross and subject to the persecution of the world (Matt. 13:44), not for destruction, but “*to be conformed to the image of his Son*” (Rom. 8:29). Since we “*are called according to his purpose*” (Rom. 8:28), and because Christ Jesus died, rose again and lives to intercede for us “*at the right hand of God*” (Rom. 8:34), there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from “*the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Rom. 8:39).

Worship Attendance – Sunday, July 23rd

8:00 AM – 60

10:30 AM – 63

Stewardship Corner

Budgeted Weekly Needs: \$ 8,945
Offerings Received – Week of 7/23 \$ 5,778

Budgeted Needs (Jan-Jun 2023) \$ 232,570
Offerings Received (Jan-Jun 2023) \$ 210,057

Building Fund Offerings Received – Week of 7/23 \$ 2,005

Matthew 13:45–46 – “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” Indeed, Jesus redeemed us, purchased us back from sin and death, with all that He had. We belong to Him now. Our generosity ought to imitate the out-sized generosity of Jesus.